Davis

December 28, 1950.

Dear Bernie-

I keep thinking that I've written this letter, and wait for your answer, only to find no copy in the file: ergo, no letter.

Unless I'm even further mistaken, I have mentioned to you a prospective publication- a volume of reprints in microbial genetics which I am trying to get together mainly for teaching. On the basis of good external advice, as well as my own convictions, the subject has been narrowed to bacteria and bacteriophages. If you have any good but unobvious suggestions for papers, or good albeit obvious possible titles, I'd be glad to hear from you. The point I'm finally coming to is that I would like very much to include your Experientia paper in the series. If this meets with your approval, may I so communicate to the publisher when applying for their legal assent?

Your letter of December 7 was most interesting, even if indigestible. (Aaron has the same response to a similar missile - I mean missive). At any rate, I was pleased to see such a neat explanation of the pab rickettsiostatic effect. Do you think that a pab-pob relationship might somehow be involved in the inhibition by pab of sulfonamide-requiring Neurospora? This should convince any sceptics of the importance of biochemical genetics in the chemotherapy!

I was also pleased to note that you had cleared Plough's mess. I don't think there's much that can be done about it. Any field as popular as this is bound to have some scatological obstructions; possibly the best thing to do is to ignore it completely in public, and keep up a mild but continuing pressure in private. But I wouldn't be surprised if Plough were to publish a formal, possibly a long-winded, retraction, if you've convinced him that he's confused.

If I haven't already done so, may I thank you for sending the set of K-12 derivatives in good order. E. coli W was not included; if it's no trouble to you, I'd like to try it sometime. Meanwhile, I've picked up half-a-dozen quite fertile, intra- and inter-crossable strains. These differ in possiblyba couple of dozen characters; we're beginning some serological work too. If I haven't mentioned it before, you might also be interested that S^s is dominant to S^r. Nevertheless, a few prototrophs come through on streptomycin minimal agar from $S^s \times S^r$ crosses, which may have some bearing on phenomic lag.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,